

OTIS LEACH

Time has taken away some of the dates and details but I will put down what is left.

I was just awake and sitting on my bunk in my underwear about to go to the shower and then go ashore when the 1st torpedo hit so as the call went to go to the 3rd deck or below I started down, then G.Q. so I got up to a compartment at the break of the deck, as it flooded I crawled out a port hole, as I reached the surface I got covered with oil, a little later I was picked up by a motor launch, by then I was pretty well blinded by the oil in my eyes, I was taken to another ship across from Ford Island, (never knew name of ship) treated by their corpsman then taken up to a hospital that was under construction above the Aiea area by Red Mt. I received eye drops all night long and could see a little by morning so I took my blanket as I was naked and got on a truck going down to the Naval Station where I got a white Navy uniform, then proceeded on to the Marine Barracks to the O.D. then got some Marine uniforms and on to join the rest of the Okie Marines. I was temporarily assigned to the USS Chicago, then spent 9 months standing sentry at Nimitz's H.Q. at the Sub Base and part time Brig Warden. Then came back to the Mainland assigned to the 3rd Marine Division as an Infantry Machine Gunner serving at Guadalcanal, Bougainville, and Guam, then spent the rest of the war on M.P. duty at Kodiak Alaska.

Otis Leach USMC

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On Fri, 12 Mar 2004 15:00:54 -0800 "STACEY LEACH" <staceynbill@msn.com> writes:

Paul,

Thought I would send you a bit of good news, my dad Otis Leach, (Okie Marine, PFC on 7 Dec 41) just had a double bypass and aorta valve replacement, I think he must be good for another 10-20 years, god bless you and all WW2 vets for saving our great country.

Bill Leach (USN 1970-1972)